

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a carbonaceous material reactor vessel having at least one wall enclosing a reaction space having a reaction zone containing a solid carbonaceous material and having a product gas zone containing reaction product gas, said at least one wall forming a carbonaceous material inlet, an hydrogen-rich gas outlet, and a retentate gas outlet; and

at least one permeable hydrogen-selective membrane disposed within said reaction space and having a first side in contact with said reaction product gas and an opposite second side in contact with an hydrogen-rich gas.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 2 1, wherein said at least one permeable hydrogen-selective membrane is at least one of proton conductive and electron conductive.

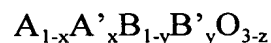
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4. (Original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 3, wherein said at least one permeable hydrogen-selective membrane is proton conductive and electron conductive.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 2 1, wherein said permeable hydrogen-selective membrane comprises a membrane material selected from the group consisting of Pd, Pd-Ag alloy, Pd-Cu alloy, perovskite-type ceramic materials, composites of Pd and ceramic materials, and combinations thereof.

7. (Currently amended) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 2 1, wherein said permeable hydrogen-selective membrane comprises a ceramic material of perovskite oxide having a formula



where A is selected from the group consisting of Ba, Sr, Ca and Mg, A' is selected from the group consisting of La, Pr, Nd, Gd, and Yb, B and B' are selected from the group consisting of Ce, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tm, Yb and Y, O is oxygen, x and y are

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numbers in a range of 0 to 1, and z is a number sufficient to neutralize a charge in said perovskite oxide.

8. (Currently amended) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 2 1, wherein said at least one permeable hydrogen-selective membrane is disposed within a membrane module disposed within said reaction space.

9. (Original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 8, wherein said at least one permeable hydrogen-selective membrane is in one of a sheet form and a tubular form.

10. (Original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 6, wherein said perovskite-type ceramic material comprises an electron conductive metal.

11. (Original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 10, wherein said electron conductive metal is selected from the group consisting of Ni, Pd, Pt and combinations thereof.

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12. (Original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 8, wherein a solid particle, impermeable-gas permeable protective sheath is disposed around said membrane module.

13. (Currently amended) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 2
1, wherein said gasification reactor vessel is a fluidized bed gasification reactor.

Claims 14 - 16 (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

Claims 18-23 (Canceled)

24. (Withdrawn) A method for producing hydrogen comprising the steps of:

introducing a carbonaceous material into a reactor vessel suitable for gasifying said carbonaceous material;

converting said carbonaceous material to a product gas comprising hydrogen and at least one of CO, CO₂, CH₄, H₂O and H₂S; and

contacting a permeable hydrogen-selective membrane disposed within said reactor vessel with said product gas resulting in passage of at least a portion of said hydrogen through said permeable hydrogen-selective membrane, forming a hydrogen-rich gas and a non-permeate mixture.

25. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with Claim 24, wherein said conversion is carried out in a fluidized bed disposed within said reactor vessel.

26. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with Claim 24, wherein said permeable hydrogen-selective membrane is at least one of proton and electron conductive.

27. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with Claim 24, wherein said permeable hydrogen-selective membrane comprises a membrane material selected from the group consisting of Pd, Pd-Ag alloy, Pd-Cu alloy, perovskite-type ceramic materials, composites of Pd and ceramic materials, and combinations thereof.

28. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with Claim 24, wherein said reactor vessel is at a temperature in a range of about 700°C to about 2000°C.

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29. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with Claim 24, wherein said reactor vessel is at a pressure in a range of about 1 to about 200 atm.